

Please amend the following claims as set forth below.

F2  
H1  
14. (Amended Thrice) A method of treating chronic inflammation in a patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering to the patient a chronic inflammation treating effective amount of erythropoietin, wherein the patient does not have anemia [of chronic disease or rheumatoid arthritis].

Sub G2  
F3  
A3  
18. (Amended Thrice) A method of treating a symptom associated with rheumatoid arthritis in a patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering to the patient a rheumatoid arthritis symptoms treating effective amount of erythropoietin over a treatment period, wherein said treatment period is [at least] 3 or 6 weeks, wherein said symptom is at least one symptom selected from the group consisting of pain, loss of grip strength, painful joints, and swollen joints.

Sub G3  
F4  
H4  
20. (Amended Thrice) A method of ameliorating a disease activity of rheumatoid arthritis in a patient in need of such amelioration, comprising administering to the patient a rheumatoid arthritis disease activity ameliorating effective amount of erythropoietin over a period, wherein said period comprises [is at least] 3 weeks of treatment, wherein said disease activity is an erythrocyte sedimentation rate or C-reactive protein level.